

# 2004 Report of Accomplishments Snohomish Conservation District



## Natural Resource Improvements in 2004 - Summary

- **Conservation Plant Sale.** The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual SCD plant sale saw lots of new additions! The Washington Native Plant Society offered free seminars throughout the two-day plant sale. Informative booths at the sale included Master Gardeners, Noxious Weed Control, and Native Plant Stewards. Close to 93,000 plants were distributed. An Adopt-A-Stream crew and more than forty volunteers, including Monroe High School students helped with packaging.



## Mission of the Snohomish Conservation District

- Snohomish Conservation District's mission is to work cooperatively with others to promote and encourage conservation and responsible use of natural resources.

## Water Quality Implementation

- SCD worked with a DOE violation landowner and has achieved great improvements on this farm including the installation of a waster storage structure.
- SCD staff completed the following water quality practices on small farms: 1700 feet of fencing installed, 1960 feet of underground outlet and 8 roof runoff structures were installed.

## Basic Funding

- In 2004, SCD leveraged basic funding to receive \$452, 761 from Snohomish County, \$20,000 from Island County, \$146,000 from DOE Centennial fund and \$10,000 from USFWS.

## Local Funding

- Using Snohomish County funding, SCD was able to provide services to Snohomish County landowners including educational workshops, technical assistance for farm planning and BMP installation and establishing model farms.

## Puget Sound/Water Quality

- Puget Sound grant funding is used to support a Habitat Restoration Specialist position and to match and leverage funding for project implementation.

## Professional Engineering

- The SCD Engineering program is an integral part of the conservation planning process and draws it's funding from various grants. Engineering technical assistance is provided to SCD Staff and Landowners in support of projects and implementation of BMPs.
- SCD Engineering produced 23 designs and worked with over 60 landowners, providing technical assistance through site visits, surveys, CAD Design, GIS work, permit assistance and construction inspection. These efforts resulted in the implementation of 15 on-the-ground projects.

## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- SCD Installed 3 CREP sites totaling 57.1 acres and conducted planning for 3 more sites totaling 72 acres, to be installed during winter 2004. SCD currently holds 14 contracts with up to 10 additional potential contracts pending.

## Dairy

- **Plans** –During this period, 1 new dairy nutrient management plan (DNMP) was developed, 6 DNMPs were modified due to changes in cow numbers and acreage, and 19 DNMPs were certified. SCD

assisted 5 dairies at SWCC informal hearings in presenting their requests for certification deadline extension. Over 90 site visits were made to dairies for technical assistance.

- **On-the-ground Improvements** – SCD dairy planners, engineers and NRCS staff worked to complete the following projects: 7 waste transfer systems, 1 waste storage pond, 4 roof runoff management systems, and 4 underground outlets. Four dairies were assisted with cost share funds.
- **Workshops** – Sixty people from 26 dairies, several agriculture businesses and government agency professionals attended SCD's and WSU Extension's joint "Dairy Field Day" focusing on dairy nutrient management practices and research conducted on a local farm. Dairies were informed on the best methods for soil sampling, soil and manure testing, crop yield tracking, nutrient management record keeping, and cow nutrition while considering whole-farm nutrient balance.



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## Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- SCD accomplished riparian planting of 12,900 feet in Snohomish basin watersheds.
- SCD installed 3 instream improvement projects; including culvert replacements, log weirs and riparian plantings.

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## Small Farm Programs



- SCD developed 20 Conservation plans covering 505 acres for small farm landowners including 8 farm plans on Camano Island.
- SCD provided 203 scoping, planning and engineering activity services for landowners.
- Practices included 167 acres of nutrient management, 38 acres of heavy use area protection, 22 acres of prescribed grazing, and 55 acres of use exclusion.

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## Community Collaboration & Coordination

- SCD advised the Snohomish Agricultural Advisory Board on AFO-CAFO regulations and enforcement.
- SCD assisted in the WA State Dairy Federation's efforts for a methane digester grant application (letter of support) that would be located in Snohomish County, assessed the number of dairy cows and heifers in the county for the WACD Livestock Development and Oversight Committee, and participated in the Local Working Group to determine EQIP eligibility requirements.
- SCD assisted Washington State Department of Agriculture's livestock inspector selection committee in the hiring of new inspectors.

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## Information & Education

- **Publications** – Four issues of the quarterly newsletter, the NEXUS, were produced. The summer issue included a survey of readers with a drawing for a gift certificate at a local farmstand for those who responded.
- **Workshops** – SCD held a Spring Small Farm Clinic, a series of "Friday in the Park" events, three tours to a sustainable farm on Lopez Island, a summer ice cream social on a local farm and several Saturday visits to local farm supply stores. In the fall of 2004, SCD will host a Fall Workshop with nationally known speaker and author, Jo Robinson ("The Omega Diet" and "Pasture Perfect").
- **Fairs and Festivals** – SCD hosted booths at the Silvana fair, Stanwood-Camano fair, Festival of the River, and provided an award-winning display for the Evergreen State Fair.

Washington Conservation Districts assisting  
land managers with their conservation choices